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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 3 MAY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that United States and United Kingdom aircraft based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey continued to violate Iraqi airspace between 23 and 30 April 1999 for the purposes of aggression, reconnaissance activities and provocation. These violations are detailed in the annex hereto.

I should be grateful if you would intervene with the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the States that facilitate these acts of aggression, namely, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, with a view to bringing a halt to such actions, which threaten the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq and constitute a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of international law.

These actions continue to cause death and injury to hundreds of civilians as well as damage to public and private property. Through the contemptible support which they provide to the United States of America and the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are fully abetting the acts of aggression against Iraq, and hence must bear international responsibility for these acts.

The Republic of Iraq reaffirms its right, as prescribed by law, to seek compensation for the damage which it and the Iraqi people have sustained as a result of these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASSAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Violations committed by United States and United Kingdom aircraft and damage caused from 23 to 30 April 1999

1. Northern region: 126 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 600 to 1,100 metres, over the following cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Tall Afar, Irbil, Zakho, Rawanduz and Baibo.

2. Southern region: 263 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 700 to 1,100 metres, over the following cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Dayr, Nasrah, Amarah, Shatrah, Hayy, Kut, Umm Qasr, Lasaf, Qala't Salih, Diwaniyah, 'Afak, Hawr al-Hammar, Ansab, Najaf, Rifa'i, Shatrah and Ashbijah.

3. At 0950, 1141, 1154, 1404 and 1430 hours on 21 April 1999, United States and United Kingdom aircraft violated Iraqi airspace, overflying the region of Umm Qasr.

4. At 1111, 1129, 1137, 1141, 1156 and 1214 hours on 22 April 1999, United States and United Kingdom aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over the region of Umm Qasr.

5. At 0840 hours on 23 April 1999, United States and United Kingdom aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace penetrated Iraqi airspace. They included F-14s, F-15s and F-16s and flew 66 sorties (44 coming from Saudi airspace and 22 coming from Kuwaiti airspace). They overflew areas of Amarah, Nasiriyah, Salman, Qurnah, Samawah, Qal'at Salih and Lasaf, before being intercepted by our air defence units, which forced them to turn back at 1725 hours.

6. At 1400, 1458, 1500, 1506 and 1514 hours on 24 April 1999, United States and United Kingdom aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

7. At 1415 on 24 April 1999, United States and United Kingdom aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace penetrated Iraqi airspace, overflying the southern region. They included F-14s, F-15s and F-16s. These aircraft flew 16 sorties (4 coming from Saudi airspace and 12 coming from Kuwaiti airspace), overflying areas of Amarah, Basrah, Dayr, Qurnah, Artawi and Lasaf, before being intercepted by our air defence units, which forced them to turn back at 1540 hours.

8. At 1355 hours on 25 April 1999, United States and United Kingdom aircraft coming from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraqi airspace in the northern region. They included F-14s, F-15s and F-16s. They flew 19 sorties, overflying areas of Irbil, Dohuk, Baibo, Tall Afar, Amadiyah, Aqrah and Mosul, before being intercepted by our air defence units, which forced them to turn back at 1545 hours.

9. At 1400, 1456, 1530 and 1602 hours on 25 April 1999, United States and United Kingdom aircraft violated Iraqi airspace, overflying the region of Umm Qasr.

10. At 1420 hours on 25 April 1999, United States and United Kingdom aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace violated Iraqi airspace in the southern region. They included F-14s, F-15s, F-16s and Tornadoes. They flew 85 sorties (48 coming from Saudi airspace and 37 coming from Kuwaiti airspace), overflying areas of Amarah, Basrah, Samawah, Diwaniyah, Artawi and Qal'at Salih, before being intercepted by our air defence units, which forced them to turn back at 2300 hours.

11. At 1505 hours on 26 April 1999, United States and United Kingdom aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace violated Iraqi airspace in the southern region. They included F-14s, F-15s and F-16s. They flew 29 sorties (21 coming from Saudi airspace and 8 coming from Kuwaiti airspace), overflying areas of Nasiriyah, Diwaniyah, Salman, Qal'at Sukkar and Jalibah, before being intercepted by our air defence units, which forced them to turn back at 1630 hours.

12. At 1500 hours on 26 April 1999, United States and United Kingdom aircraft coming from Turkish airspace violated Iraqi airspace in the northern region. They included F-14s, F-15s and F-16s. They flew 24 sorties, overflying areas of Irbil, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Amadiyah, Zakho and Mosul, before being intercepted by our air defence units, which forced them to turn back at 1825 hours.

13. At 1405 hours on 27 April 1999, United States and United Kingdom aircraft coming from Turkish airspace violated Iraqi airspace in the northern region. They included F-14s, F-15s and F-16s. They flew 31 sorties, supported by an Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft coming from inside Turkish airspace. These aircraft overflew areas of Irbil, Dohuk, Mosul, Tall Afar, Amadiyah, Zakho and Aqrah and fired two projectiles at a public services installation situated in the area of [illegible], killing one person, before being intercepted by our air defence units, which forced them to turn back at 1725 hours.

14. At 1040 hours on 28 April 1999, United States and United Kingdom aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace violated Iraqi airspace in the southern region. They included F-14s, F-15s and F-16s. They flew 32 sorties (22 coming from Saudi airspace and 10 coming from Kuwaiti airspace), supported by two AWACS guidance aircraft coming from Saudi airspace and an E-2C aircraft coming from Kuwaiti airspace. These aircraft overflew areas of Nasiriyah, Amarah, Samawah, Artawi, Lasaf, Qal'at Sukkar, Busayyah and Hayy, before being intercepted by our air defence units, which forced them to turn back at 1326 hours.

15. At 1400 hours on 29 April 1999, United States and United Kingdom aircraft coming from Turkish airspace violated Iraqi airspace in the northern region. They included F-14s, F-15s and F-16s. These aircraft, supported by an AWACS early-warning aircraft, overflew areas of Irbil, Rawanduz, Tall Afar, Amadiyah, Zakho, Mosul and Aqrah, before being intercepted by our air defence units, which forced them to turn back at 1730 hours.

16. At 1446 hours on 29 April 1999, United States and United Kingdom aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace violated Iraqi airspace in the southern region. They included F-14s, F-15s and F-16s. These aircraft, supported by an AWACS early-warning aircraft coming from inside Saudi airspace, flew 35 sorties (31 coming from Saudi airspace and 4 coming from Kuwaiti airspace), overflying areas of Nasiriyah, Diwaniyah, Qurnah, Jalibah, Lasaf, Qal'at Sukkar, Busayyah, Hayy, Hawr al-Hammar and Maymunah, before being intercepted by our air defence units, which forced them to turn back at 1115 hours.

17. At 1350 hours on 30 April 1999, United States and United Kingdom aircraft coming from Turkish airspace violated Iraqi airspace in the northern region. They included F-14s, F-15s and F-16s. These aircraft, supported by an AWACS early-warning aircraft, flew 29 sorties, overflying areas of Irbil, Tall Afar, Amadiyah, Zakho and Mosul, before being intercepted by our air defence units, which forced them to turn back at 1745 hours.